

JOINT WASTE DISPOSAL BOARD
31 JANUARY 2006
(7.30 pm – 9.15 pm)

Present: Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Councillor I McCracken
Councillor Mrs Ballin

Reading Borough Council
Councillor R McKenzie

Wokingham Borough Council
Councillor T Holton
Councillor R Stanton

Officers in Attendance: Mr D Fisher Reading Borough Council
Mr J Freer Bracknell Forest Borough Council
Mr M Moon Wokingham Borough Council
Ms Yvonne Dawson, Wokingham Borough Council
Mr O Burg Reading Borough Council
Mr R McKenna Reading Borough Council
Mr P Butler Reading Borough Council
Mr K Holyer Reading Borough Council
Mr A Withey Reading Borough Council
Ms N Norris Bracknell Forest Borough Council
M J Osbourne, Consultant

13. **Election of Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor R Stanton be elected Chairman of the Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2005/06.

14. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Ballin be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2005/06.

15. **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Waite.

16. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 20 October 2005 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received in relation to any items on the

agenda.

18. **Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent of items of business received.

19. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED that, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of items 9 and 10, which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Act:

(Paragraph 7) Financial affairs of a Company

(Paragraph 9) terms proposed, or to be proposed, for a contract for the supply of services.

20. **Negotiations with Preferred Bidder**

There was submitted a report by the Project Director, updating the Board as to the approach being taken by the Joint Project Team (JPT) of Council Officers and Advisors, to negotiate with the Council's preferred bidder, Waste Recycling Group (WRG), and highlighting the current status of the main strands of negotiations.

The report went on to give the background on the negotiation approach, the status of negotiations, the technical, financial and legal strands surrounding the negotiations and the standardisation of Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts.

The Board considered the report and was particularly concerned with the proposed increase in costs proposed by WRG. The Board was assured that this could be contributed to the slippage of the Project, the fixing of the landfill price and the increase in cost of the Energy From Waste subcontract, however, officers would look at the costs in depth to ensure that it was reasonable. Mindful of the amount of work that was still required to complete the Contract, the Board asked officers to try and avoid any further slippages in order to prevent any further increases in penalty costs. Officers agreed to write a brief summary of the main financial issues for Members to refer to when questioned by their Councils.

The Board was advised of a number of issues from the legal strand of negotiations that had been raised after the agenda report had been printed. There were a number of complex issues still to be considered and the Legal Team agreed to make a note of these and circulate to the Board following the meeting.

The Board was assured that the Contract was still deliverable and would provide value for money.

RESOLVED that the approach to the preferred bidder negotiations and the progress of the negotiations to date be noted.

21. **Management Arrangements**

Jon Freer, the Borough Council's Assistant Director of Sustainability (Streetcare), delivered a presentation and advised the Board about the revised management structures that would take place once the Contract was in place. A copy of the slides would be circulated following the meeting.

The Board noted the work to be moved forward over the next few months, in particular, the reconstitution of the Joint Waste Disposal Board. A number of issues were raised in relation to the reconstitution which the Chairman agreed to discuss with the legal team.

22. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be either 22nd or 29th March at Reading Borough Council and 1 June 2006 (venue to be confirmed). Councillor McKenzie agreed to confirm the March date with Ema Dearsley as soon as possible.

CHAIRMAN